

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01721 250817Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /031 W  
----- 032087

R 241519Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8104

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: LABOR UNITY APPEARS ONE STEP CLOSER

REF: A) LAGOS 11652

B) LAGOS A-21, DATED FEBRUARY 24, 1975

SUMMARY: MERGER OF NIGERIA'S FOUR CENTRAL LABOR BODIES APPEARS  
STEP CLOSER AS TWO OF FOUR HELD SPECIAL MEETING OVER WEEKEND  
TO RATIFY NLC CONSTITUTION AND FORMALLY AGREE TO DISSOLVE AS  
SEPARATE ENTITIES. ULC AND NWC APPEAR TO BE HOLDING BACK ON  
THIS STEP AND COULD CAUSE DELAY IN FORMAL LAUNCHING OF NLC.  
END SUMMARY.

1. TWO OF NIGERIA'S FOUR CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HELD  
SPECIAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS OVER WEEKEND TO RATIFY  
CONSTITUTION OF NEW SINGLE CENTRAL LABOR BODY, NIGERIAN  
LABOUR CONGRESS (NLC). MEETINGS WERE HELD TO COMPLY WITH TRADE  
UNION DECREE (DECREE 31 OF 1973) REQUIREMENTS COVERING  
AMALGAMATION OF CENTRAL LABOR CENTERS, AND AT BEHEST OF NLC  
STEERING COMMITTEE (REF A).

2. NIGERIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS (NTUC) HELD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21 IN LAGOS AND, IN SECRET BALLOT, AGREED NTUC  
SHOULD DISSOLVE WHEN NLC IS FORMALLY LAUNCHED IN LATE MARCH.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 01721 250817Z

ALL NTUC ASSETS AND LIABILITIES TO BECOME PART OF NLC.

MEETING ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER THREE CENTRAL BODIES, PLUS LABOUR MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

3. LABOUR UNITY FRONT (LUF) HELD SIMILAR MEETING FEBRUARY 22, PASSED SAME RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DISSOLVE ON FORMATION OF NLC, AND HAD APPROXIMATELY SAME GUESTS.

4. COMMENT: INTERESTINGLY, NTUC AND LUF DECIDED HOLD SEPARATE CONVENTIONS DESPITE FACT THEY HAD MERGED INTO NIGERIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (NTUF) IN LATE 1973. THIS WAS DONE SO AS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS FROM FMG WHICH HAS NOT FORMALLY, OR INFORMALLY, RECOGNIZED EXISTENCE OF NTUF. ATTENDANCE OF MOL TRADE UNION ADVISER AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS APPEARS TO GIVE SOME DEGREE OF MOL RECOGNITION TO NLC MERGER POSSIBILITIES; HOWEVER, FINAL FMG DECISION AS TO WHETHER THESE CONVENTIONS FULLY COMPLY WITH DECREE 31 CONDITIONS FOR MERGER IS, OF COURSE, NOT YET KNOWN.

5. UNITED LABOUR CONGRESS (ULC) AND NIGERIAN WORKERS COUNCIL (NWC) HAVE AS YET NOT COMPLIED WITH NLC STEERING COMMITTEE'S DECISION ON HOLDING SPECIAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS. AS REPORTED REF B, ULC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FAILED TO HOLD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 14 AND 15, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW REPORT THAT EITHER ULC OR NWC PLAN TO HOLD SUCH MEETINGS IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS FORMALITY WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE END OF MARCH IF NLC IS TO HOLD TO ORIGINAL LAUNCHING SCHEDULE. NWC, WHICH EXISTS IN NAME ONLY, WOULD BE NO LOSS TO NLC. HOWEVER, ULC'S RELUCTANCE TO COMPLETE FORMALITIES COULD CAUSE SPLIT IN ULC AND WEAKEN SOLIDARITY OF MODERATE UNIONS IN NLC, ESPECIALLY IF BULK OF ULC AFFILIATES BREAK AWAY FROM ULC AND JOIN NLC INDIVIDUALLY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LAGOS01721  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LAGOS 11652  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LABOR UNITY APPEARS ONE STEP CLOSER  
**TAGS:** ELAB, NI, NTUC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006